



***Division of Public Defender Services
State of Connecticut***

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DIVISION OF PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN
March 1, 2012

**RAISED BILL 5219, AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF YOUNG ADULTS IN THE ANNUAL
REPORT CARD ON POLICIES AND PROGRAMS AFFECTING CHILDREN**

The Office of Chief Public Defender supports ***Raised Bill 3219, An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Young Adults in the Annual Report Card on Policies and Programs Affecting Children.*** This proposal would add indicator relating to the well being of 18 to 25 year olds to the purview of the group that issues the Results Based Accountability report card on the status of children in Connecticut. This is a timely proposal. Connecticut is in dire need of young, vibrant citizens that can contribute to the future success of our state. Unfortunately, most supportive programs and services end at age 18. The majority of young adults are not ready to live independently or support themselves financially until well into their 20s. Brain development research has shown us that the human brain reaches maximum development sometime after age 25. This research is leading to major changes in how the criminal and juvenile justice systems hold young people accountable for their actions. As the justice system evolves, it is important that all aspects of state government change to ensure that our young people have enough support to ensure success. It is important for our economic success and the right thing to do. The Office of Chief Public Defender urges this committee to report favorably on this proposal.